

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 CG-00 DOTE-00 RSR-01 /111 W

----- 075300

R 131755Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3878

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USUN NEW YORK 353

USMISSION NATO

USOECD PARIS 493

USMISSION GENEVA

COMICEDEFOR

NISRA KEFLAVIK

CINCLANT

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0951

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR IC UK

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: CONTINUING INCIDENTS

1. MINOR BUT PROVOCATIVE INCIDENTS AT SEA BETWEEN BRITISH NAVAL UNITS AND ICELANDIC COAST GUARD CUTTERS CONTINUE TO BE DISCOURAGING ELEMENT TO ANY INITIATIVE FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS IN FISHERIES DISPUTE. THREE INCIDENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN LAST THREE DAYS.

1. AROUND MIDNIGHT AUGUST 10-11 BRITISH FRIGATE ANDROMEDA F-57 REPORTEDLY OVERTOOK ICELANDIC CUTTER ODINN ON STARBOARD SIDE, CUT ACROSS BOW, THEN STOPPED AND BACKED. THIS MANEUVER WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES. ACCORDING TO ICELANDIC COAST GUARD VERSION

ODINN MADE VERY ATTEPT TO AVOID COLLISION AND USED SOUND SIGNALS TO INDICATE ALL CHANGES OF COURSE. FRIGATE REPORTEDLY DID NOT SIGNAL AND VIOLATED NAVIGATIONAL RULES. AFTER ATTEMPTING THIS MANEUVER SEVERAL TIMES, ANDROMEDA FINALLY CAME CLOSE ENOUGH TO ODINN'S BOW THAT COLLISION COULD NOT BE AVOIDED. MINOR DAMAGE WAS SUSTAINED BY ODINN ON STARBOARD BOW AND BY FRIGATE ON PORT BOW. INCIDENT TOOK PLACE APPROXIMATELY 24 NAUTICAL MILES NORTH OF KOGUR OFF OF NORTHWEST ICELAND. EIGHT BRITISH TRAWLERS WERE OPERATING WITHIN LIMITS IN AREA ACCOMPANIED BY BRITISH TUGBOAT LLOYDSMAN. ICELANDIC PRESS REPORTED BRITISH ADMIRALTY STATEMENT ON INCIDENT WHICH CLAIMED THAT FRIGATE WAS MOTIONLESS AT TIME OF COLLISION AND WAS DELIBERATELY RAMMED BY ODINN.

3. DURING LATE EVENING AUGUST 12 ICELANDIC CUTTER AEGIR DISCOVERED BRITISH TRAWLER LORD ST. VINCENT H-261 HAULING IN TRAWL 10-1/2 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTHEAST OF HVALBAKUR OFF THE SOUTHEAST COAST. CUTTER ORDERED TRAWLER TO HALT. BRITISH FRIGATE SIRIUS, WHICH WAS STANDING BY, AGREED TO INVESTIGATION. TRAWLER REFUSED TO STOP AND AEGIR FIRED THREE BLANK SHELLS. FOLLOWING THIS TRAWLER AGREED TO HALT AND CONSULT WITH SIRIUS ON CONDITION THAT AEGIR REMAIN AT DISTANCE OF ONE NAUTICAL MILE, WHICH WAS AGREED TO. AT CONCLUSION OF CONSULTATION TRAWLER WAS ESCORTED BEYOND 50-MILE LIMIT BY AEGIR, SIRIUS, BRITISH FRIGATE PLYMOUTH, AND TWO BRITISH TUGS.

4. EARLY AUGUST 13 CUTTER ODINN CUT TRAWL WIRES OF BRITISH TRAWLER ROSS OTRANTO H-227, 39 NAUTICAL MILES FROM STRAUMNES OFF THE NORTHWEST COAST. IRVING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT, NAVAL FORCES, SHIP HARASSMENT, FISHING DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973REYKJA00951
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730841/aaaabect.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION COA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <25-Jan-2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FISHERIES DISPUTE: CONTINUING INCIDENTS
TAGS: PBOR, EFIS, IC, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005